MENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a one man committee was appointed to conduct an inquiry into alleged large scale poaching of tigers in the Ranthambhore Wild Life Sanctuary;

(b) if so, what are the findings of the Committee; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The findings of the Committee are as under:

(i) The 1992 census cannot be taken as authentic because of constraints prevailing at that time. The actual number of tigers can be arrived at by carrying out a new census by induction of experts from outside alongwith forest staff preceeded by constant monitoring.

(ii) There has been some evidence of poaching, the extent of which will be available after the police investigations are completed.

(iii) It does not hold any specific person or individual responsible but blames mainly the administrative set up and the system that is prevalent in the area.

The followng steps have been taken by the Rajasthan Government:—

(i) A Committee has been constituted to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the Report.

(a) whether Government have prepared have been filled up and some new posts of protective staff have been sanctioned.

(iii) Field Director has been authorised to hire jeeps for patrolling purposes in addition to placing one jeep and one small truck at his disposal to provide mobility to staff.

(iv) The Field Director has been advised to ensure regular patrolling in villages and agricultural farms around the park to guard against the poachers.

(v) Steps have been initiated for providing arms to the patrolling Staff.

(vi) The census of animals have been carried out in May, 1993.

Environmental clearance for Budge Budge Thermal Power Project

256. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently suspended the environmental clearance for the 500 MW. Budge Budge Thermal Power Project of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation Limited (CESC); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The environmental clearance accorded on 14th August, 1991 to the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation Limited (CESC) for setting up a 500 MW. Thermal Power Plant at Budge Budge was suspended on 17th May, 1993 due to non-compliance of the stipulated conditions. The environmental clearance given stands suspended till the requisite details and clarifications are received from CESC and the matter is reviewed.

National River Action Plan

257. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a Rs. 1,000 crore National River Action Plan; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) A National River Action Plan